

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/ARP:JRCOUNTRYMAN
NEA/AEGRIFIN
S/S-O:MR. STEINER
NEA/ARP:JWTWINAM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052123

EXDIS

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT MANAMA 515, SENT SECSTATE, INFO ABU DHABI,
DOHA, BAGHDAD, DHAHRAN, JIDDA, MUSCAT, SANA 05 MAR:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 515

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, US
SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR VISIT OF HIGH LEVEL USG OFFICIAL
TO GULF PENINSULA AREA

REF: DOHA 280

1. WE AGREE WITH AMBASSADOR PAGANELLI'S VIEW THAT THERE
COULD BE VALUE TO USG IN HAVING HIGH-LEVEL ENVOY MAKE THE
GULF ROUNDS. DEGREE OF VALUE OF COURSE DEPENDS ON CONTENT
AND TIMING OF ANY SUCH VISIT. IN CONTEXT OF OUR EFFORT
TOWARD MIDEAST SETTLEMENT, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO SEND ENVOY
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SOON AFTER FORTHCOMING ROUND OF TALKS IN WASHINGTON WITH KEY
AREA LEADERS.

2. OIL RICH GULF STATES DO HELP BANKROLL ARAB MODERATES IN
THEIR EFFORTS TOWARD PEACE. WE WOULD SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE THEM
IN THIS COURSE BY FIRST-HAND BRIEFING FROM USG ON HOW IT
SEES PROCESS EVOLVING AFTER NEW ADMINISTRATION'S FIRST ROUND

OF TALKS IN AREA AND IN WASHINGTON. THE MORE SPECIFIC THE CONTENT OF SUCH BRIEFING, PERHAPS IT COULD EVEN BE CONSULTATIVE IN GENERAL WAY, THE MORE JUNIOR THE ENVOY COULD BE, ASSISTANT OR UNDER SECRETARY, AND STILL MAKE VERY POSITIVE IMPACT. (COSMETIC VISITS NEED VERY SENIOR PRESENCE TO MAKE ANY IMPACT AT ALL.)

3. WHILE IN OIL CONTEXT NON-OPEC BAHRAIN DOES NOT WARRANT ATTENTION DUE ITS OPEC NEIGHBORS, VISIT HERE COULD BE HELPFUL IN MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS IF TIMING WERE RIGHT. KEY TO SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WILL GIVE CREDIBILITY TO CLAIM BY GOB THAT IT IS NO LONGER HOST TO US BASE. AS DEPT. AWARE, THIS CREDIBILITY WILL BE AS MUCH A FUNCTION OF IMAGERY AS OF SUBSTANCE. INDEED, WE SUSPECT THAT THE MORE FORTHCOMING WE CAN BE RE IMAGE OF WITHDRAWAL, THE MORE FORTHCOMING GOB MIGHT BE ABLE TO BE ON QUESTION FACILITIES TO WHICH NAVY WILL HAVE ACCESS IN FUTURE. PRESENCE OF RELATIVELY SENIOR DEPT. OFFICIAL AT A DE-HOMEPORTING CEREMONY SOMETIME IN JUNE(WHICH AMBASSADOR AND ADMIRAL CROWE FEEL WILL BE NECESSARY PART OF IMAGERY) WOULD ADD TO CREDIBILITY WHICH GOB SEEKS. CLUVERIUS UNQUOTE. VANCE

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